the Kuthiran Road as a protection to vehicular traffic along that road?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* The work of raising the side walls wherever necessary will be attended to soon.

BACK-WATER COMMUNICATION BETWEEN COCHIN AND TRICHUR—IMPROVEMENTS TO

120. Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan *(Commerce and Industry):* Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether any steps have been taken to improve the back-water communication between Cochin and Trichur;

(*b*) if the reply is in the affirmative, what all improvements have been effected;

(*c*) if the reply is in the negative, whether the Government intend to improve this canal so as to make it navigable for boats throughout the year?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):*

(*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) It has not been possible to take up the improvement of the navigation channels in the *kole* fields leading to Trichur as improvements to them are only possible after an external source of water for irrigation of the *kole* fields is secured. The question is being investigated.

IRRIGATION FACILITIES—LANDS ADJACENT TO TRAVANCORE STATE—ARRANGEMENT FOR TAKING WATER FROM TRAVANCORE IRRIGATION WORKS

121. Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether they have received a petition on 16th Thulam 1115 from the people of Meloor Village, requesting the Irrigation Department to give necessary facilities for taking water to the paddy fields lying adjacent to the Travancore State from the *thode* constructed in Travancore from "എഴാറാമുഖം പാണമുഴ";

(*b*) have the Government started any negotiations with the Travancore Government in this matter;

(*c*) is it not a fact that over 1,000 acres of paddy fields will be benefitted by this arrangement;

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Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know, Sir, whether there is any difficulty in sending the budget estimate to the members of the Legislative Council at least fourteen days prior to the budget session, so that they may get time to study the budget?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* That would be very difficult. Even as it is, we are hard-pressed for time to get the thing through and so to send it one more week in advance would be very very difficult.

APPENDIX I

[*Please see answer to question No. 121, sub-division (d)*]

Petition dated 3rd Thulam 1115, from the Land-owners and the Agriculturists of Meloor, Chalakkudi

"We, the following land-owners and the agriculturists of the village of Meloor in the Mukundapuram Taluk, most humbly beg to submit the following for your kind consideration and necessary action.

This village is bounded on the north by the Chalakkudi river and on the east by the Manjapra Pakuthi of the Kunnathunadu Taluk in the State of Travancore. The north-east corner of this village is, in comparison with the other parts, most fertile and therefore specially suited for agricultural works of various kinds. The famous "Adichil Farm" belonging to the Valia Thampuran Palliyara, is situated here. But owing to the scarcity of rain and want of facilities for getting down water from river which requires the sanction of the Travancore Government as the river in that part runs through that State, the lands in these parts do not lend themselves to be converted as fields other than single crop ones depending for their water supply on the whimsical south-west monsoon. And not uncommonly even these single annual crops are at times destroyed by either the floods due to the excess of rain and at other times by the scarcity of it. We have several times before this memorialised the Government pointing out these facts and claiming a remission of land revenue, with no effect. This petition is for bringing to the notice of the Government a simple scheme which entails no expenditure on the part of the Government and which at the same time, claims to be of profit to both the Government and ourselves alike.

One Parakkal Devassy has, with the sanction of the Travancore Government, constructed an irrigational canal from "Ezhattumukham Panampuzha" which runs through the Manjapra Pakuthi lying to the east of the aforesaid north-eastern corner of this village, and several acres of land have been now brought under cultivation. This area newly brought under cultivation and lying in the Travancore State, though actually less fertile than our place, is now made fit to yield three crops of paddy annually or to cultivate banana, sugar-cane, etc., at any time of the year. The canal reaches to the boundary of the Travancore State not far from the "Adichil Farm" and much water brought down through this canal now runs to waste as the cultivable land in that part of the Travancore State is limited. If this excess water which now runs to waste can be made available here, it will really be a great boon to us as we can raise double crops in our fields, and at the same time a profit to the Cochin Government as additional revenue for such double crops can be realised. We also

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take this opportunity to assure the Government that we are willing to pay the water cess that they may be pleased to levy in this behalf.

We are also reliably informed that proposals for acquiring the aforesaid private canal belonging to Parakkal Devassy, are now before the Travancore Government as a result of which the Irrigation Supervisor of the Travancore Government has made investigations on the spot regarding the same.

In this connection, we beg to request the Government to be pleased to take adequate measures for moving the Travancore Government to accord permission for extending the canal to our part and thus enable us to make use of the water for our agricultural purposes.

Awaiting your order."

Voting of Demands for Grants—*(cont.)*

28.—Public Works—Rs. 11,64,447

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Sir, I move that the House be pleased to grant a sum of Rs. 11,64,447 under "28-Public Works.".

The details given in the printed Budget are sufficiently elaborate to give you all a correct idea as to how the money is to be expended. There might perhaps be a few items which might require a word of explanation from me.

A sum of Rs. 1,25,000 for works on communication has been made in this Budget. This is for the purpose of the completion of the works according to the programme chalked out by the Road Board. The road board works, I am glad to say, have been progressing according to schedule. In the Cochin-Kanayannur Taluk the works which have been completed include.—

the Thamarakulangara Road,
the Bridge between Parur and Chennamangalam,
the Malayattur Bridge,
Foot-paths in Gothuruthy,
the Mangayil Road to Nettur,
the Road to the Keechery Frontier, and
the Bridge between Komanthuruthy and Chenganad.

The first section of the Chittur-Vaduthala Bridge has been completed. The embankments have been done and the sufficiency of the vent way has been checked. The crossing is difficult, because of bad foundation. If cost is no criterion the design of foundation would have been simple. But to Highway Engineers it has always been a difficult problem in providing for a cheap crossing the cost of which will be commensurate with the benefits deriving from the crossing. We first prepared an estimate providing for cast iron

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